



Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest
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www.fs.usda.gov/malheur

FIRE UPDATE

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August 13, 2015
8:30 p.m.

Canyon Creek Complex

JOHN DAY, Ore. – Forest officials are reporting increased fire activity after strong winds swept through the area this afternoon.

Incident 270, now named **Mason Spring Fire**, is currently burning seven miles north of Seneca, Ore., in the vicinity of Highway 395 and the junction of County Road 63. **A closure for Highway 395 is currently in effect, with potential for pilot car escorts.** Crews experienced strong afternoon winds pushing the fire across control lines. The fire is burning actively.

The **Berry Creek Fire**, burning seven miles south of John Day in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness near private lands. Afternoon strong winds have also increased the fire activity. Crews have been constructing a direct handline on the east and west flank of the fire throughout the day. The fire continues to be terrain driven, consuming heavy fuels and slash.

The two fires will be under combined management and now called the Canyon Creek Complex. Due to the complexity of the incidents, a Type 2 Team has been ordered and is expected to take command as early as Saturday evening.

Additional information on the Canyon Creek Complex can be found on Inciweb at:
<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4495/>.

Please be advised of increased fire traffic and smoky conditions throughout the area. Forest Officials ask that the public stay clear of all fire activities.

Fire officials would like to remind everyone that the forest is currently at Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) III, with Phase B of Public Use Restrictions in effect. Fire Danger Rating for the south half of the forest is VERY HIGH, and the north half is at EXTREME. With this, no firewood cutting is allowed. Campfires are allowed only in a designated recreation sites.

The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) is increasing the National Fire Preparedness Level (PL) to its highest point, PL-5, effective at 5:30 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time on Thursday, August 13. The last time that the National Preparedness Level was raised to 5 was on August 20, 2013. The National Preparedness Level remained at 5 for 7 days until it was dropped to 4 on August 26, 2013. This is the fifth time that PL-5 has been reached in the last ten years.

Additional fire information can be found at JDIDC - BICC sites online at: <http://bicc-jdidc.org/index.shtml>.



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NEWS RELEASE

(continued)

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To report a fire, contact the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at 541-575-1321 or the Burns Interagency Communication Center at 541-573-1000.

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